



## Department of Energy

Brookhaven Area Office  
P. O. Box 5000  
Upton, New York 11973

**JUN 11 2003**

Mr. George Goode  
Brookhaven Science Associates, LLC  
Brookhaven National Laboratory  
Upton, New York 11973

Dear Mr. Goode:

**SUBJECT: NEPA DETERMINATION**

We have reviewed the Environmental Evaluation Notification Form for the RHIC Alcove 9C Electronic Equipment Modular Structure and have determined it to be a Categorical Exclusion. A copy of the determination is enclosed.

If you should have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Caroline Polanish of my staff at extension 5224.


Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "M. Holland", is written over the typed name.

Michael D. Holland  
Area Manager

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc: J. R. Oprzedek, TS, CH, w/encl.  
C. Polanish, BAO, w/encl.  
M. Davis, BNL, w/encl.  
E. Lessard, BNL, w/o encl.

**National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)  
ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION NOTIFICATION FORM**Grantee/Contractor Laboratory: BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORYProject/Activity Title: RHIC Alcove 9C Electronic Equipment Modular StructureCH NEPA Tracking No.: BNL-477 Type of Funding: AIP/operatingB&R Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Estimated Cost: \$200KDOE Cognizant Secretarial Officer (CSO): R. Orbach, SC-1Contractor Project Manager: A. Pendzick Signature: Date: 5/23/03Contractor NEPA Reviewer: M. Davis Signature: Date: 5/23/03**I. Description of Proposed Action:**

The Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) operates the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC) for study of high-energy impacts (collisions) of heavy nuclei. The proposed action would relocate electronic equipment, now located inside alcove 9C at RHIC, to outside the RHIC tunnel in order to service the equipment without entering the RHIC tunnel. A modular structure (approx. size: 16' x 30') would be purchased and placed near the alcove on top of the ring, very near the outboard ring road. Power and services would be supplied from the RHIC tunnel. Existing equipment in the alcove would be relocated into the modular building and their cables extended through an existing pathway or new service sleeves. The need to make this change is driven by the fact that equipment maintenance during RHIC operations is required and would be more feasible where RHIC ring entry during operations would not be required.

The scope of the proposed action would include installation of footings for the modular building; installation of the structure; connection of utility services from the tunnel to the structure; possible installation of a service sleeve through the RHIC tunnel.

(Reference drawing in section V)

**II. Description of Affected Environment:**

The proposed action would take place at or near Alcove 9C located in the northwest (10 O'clock) portion of the RHIC Ring. Alcove 9C is located approximately 500 feet from the Peconic River. All work would be within previously disturbed areas and there would be no impact to the Peconic River or wetlands areas.

No adverse impacts to environmentally sensitive areas would be anticipated.

**III. Potential Environmental Effects:** (Attach explanation for each "yes" response and "no" response if additional information is available and could be significant in the decision making process.)

**A. Sensitive Resources: Will the proposed action result in changes and/or disturbances to any of the following resources?**

Yes/No

- |  |            |
|--|------------|
| 1. Threatened/Endangered Species and/or Critical Habitats                        | <u>No</u>  |
| 2. Other Protected Species (e.g., Burros, Migratory Birds)                       | <u>No</u>  |
| 3. Wetlands  | <u>Yes</u> |
| 4. Archaeological/Historic Resources   | <u>No</u>  |
| 5. Prime, Unique or Important Farmland   | <u>No</u>  |
| 6. Non-Attainment Areas  | <u>No</u>  |
| 7. Class I Air Quality Control Region  | <u>No</u>  |
| 8. Special Sources of Groundwater (e.g., Sole Source Aquifer)                    | <u>No</u>  |
| 9. Navigable Air Space   | <u>No</u>  |
| 10. Coastal Zones (e.g., National Forests, Parks, Trails)                        | <u>No</u>  |
| 11. Areas w/Special National Designation (e.g., National Forests, Parks, Trails) | <u>No</u>  |
| 12. Floodplain   | <u>No</u>  |

**B. Regulated Substances/Activities: Will the proposed action involve any of the following regulated substances or activities?**

Yes/No

- |   |            |
|---|------------|
| 13. Clearing or Excavation (indicate if greater than 5 acres)                             | <u>Yes</u> |
| 14. Dredge or Fill (under Clean Water Act section 404; indicate if greater than 10 acres) | <u>No</u>  |
| 15. Noise (in excess of regulations)  | <u>No</u>  |
| 16. Asbestos Removal  | <u>No</u>  |
| 17. PCBs  | <u>No</u>  |
| 18. Import, Manufacture or Processing of Toxic Substances                                 | <u>No</u>  |
| 19. Chemical Storage/Use  | <u>No</u>  |
| 20. Pesticide Use   | <u>No</u>  |
| 21. Hazardous, Toxic, or Criteria Pollutant Air Emissions                                 | <u>No</u>  |
| 22. Liquid Effluent   | <u>No</u>  |
| 23. Underground Injection   | <u>No</u>  |
| 24. Hazardous Waste   | <u>No</u>  |
| 25. Underground Storage Tanks   | <u>No</u>  |
| 26. Radioactive (AEA) Mixed Waste   | <u>No</u>  |
| 27. Radioactive Waste   | <u>No</u>  |
| 28. Radiation Exposures   | <u>No</u>  |

**C. Other Relevant Disclosures. Will the proposed action involve the following?**

Yes/No

- |  |            |
|--|------------|
| 29. A threatened violation of ES&H regulations/permit requirements   | <u>No</u>  |
| 30. Siting/Construction/Major Modification of Waste Recovery or TSD Facilities   | <u>No</u>  |
| 31. Disturbance of Pre-existing Contamination  | <u>No</u>  |
| 32. New or Modified Federal/State Permits  | <u>Yes</u> |
| 33. Public controversy (e.g., Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898 consideration and other related public issues) | <u>No</u>  |
| 34. Action/involvement of Another Federal Agency (e.g., license, funding, approval)                                      | <u>No</u>  |
| 35. Action of a State Agency in a State with NEPA-type law. (Does the State Environmental Quality Review Act Apply?)     | <u>Yes</u> |
| 36. Public Utilities/Services  | <u>No</u>  |
| 37. Depletion of a Non-Renewable Resource  | <u>No</u>  |

IV. **Section D Determination:** Is the project/activity appropriate for a determination by the Group Manager under Subpart D of the DOE NEPA Regulations for compliance with NEPA?

Yes

Indicate the recommendation and specific class of action from Appendix A-D to Subpart D (10 CFR 1021):

CX

B1.15 Siting/construction/operation of support buildings/support structures

And CX

B1.31 Relocation/operation of machinery and equipment

**DOE Recommendation:**

BAO NEPA Coordinator: Caroline Polanish

Signature:

Date:

LGL-GL: Irene P. Atney

Signature:

Date:

**Group Manager Subpart D CX Determination and Approval:**

The preceding pages are a record of documentation required under DOE Final NEPA Regulation, 10 CFR Part 1021.400, to establish that an action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review. I have determined that the proposed action meets the requirements for the Categorical Exclusion referenced above. Therefore, by my signature below, I have determined that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

Acting BAO Area Manager: Michael D. Holland

Signature:

Date:

**V. Additional Information**

- A3 While the proposed action would not have a direct affect on wetlands, the area of effect would be within  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile of the Peconic River, thereby, requiring a permit under the Wild, Scenic and Recreational River Systems Act. BNL would submit an application for the permit to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).
- B13 Small-scale excavation, such as grade leveling for structure placement and installation of footings would be necessary. Appropriate best management practices (silt fencing, or hay bales) would be installed, as determined necessary, in the area affected by the excavation to prevent soil and silt from reaching the Peconic River wetlands. The total area of excavation would be less than 1 acre.
- C32 Because the area of effect is within the  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile of the Peconic River, BNL would submit to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation an application for permit under the Wild, Scenic and Recreational River Systems Act.
- C35 Submittal of the permit, identified in item C32 above, would include a review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act.

**Sketch of Proposed Affected Area:**